



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
372 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
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FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby  
Mr. Vito Cannella  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mr. Carl E. Moore

### **MINUTES OF THE** **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **SEPTEMBER 17, 2008**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

#### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **Present**

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó  
Barbara Bigby  
Rita Hall  
John A. Hammargren  
Carl E. Moore

##### **Excused Absence**

Frank Bacio  
Vito Cannella

##### **Others Present**

Captain Warren Asmus, Sheriff's Department  
Michael Varela, Probation Department  
Barbara Butler, Department of Children and Family Services  
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services  
Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children and Family Services  
Carla Carr, Department of Auditor-Controller  
Michael Henderson, Internal Services Department  
Kellee Colman, Community Care Licensing  
Aurora Guevara, Community Care Licensing  
Angelica Lopez, Community Care Licensing

##### **Staff**

Janice Davis, Commission Services Staff  
Garen Khachian, Commission Services Staff

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Chair Montaña welcomed everyone in attendance and requested that Department Representatives introduce themselves.

### **Sheriff's Department:**

Captain Asmus reported the following.

- The Cosmetology/Barbering Classes are not feasible in the jail system due to the time requirement needed for the inmates to become certified for the program.
- Portable lockup cells will be installed in the Courts in 2-3 weeks. Department 95 (San Fernando Courthouse) will receive the first two portable lockup cells to solve the issue of overcrowding.

Commissioners Bigby and Hall joined the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

### **Department of Children and Family Services:**

Ms. Dorothy Channel reported the following:

- Youth Beacon Group Home has voluntarily closed its site as of August of 2008.
- The reported number of physical abuse allegations was 8.
- The reported number of sexual abuse allegations was 8.
- The reported number of general neglect allegations was 3.
- The reported number of runaways from group homes was 237, which includes Probation Group Homes.
- There have been no group home closures since the August 20, 2008, Sybil Brand Commission meeting.
- "Its Time For Kids" is a new partnership Program between the Los Angeles County Office of Education and local Community Based Organizations, which provide enrichment programs and activities to inspire foster youths and enhance their academic performance.

Mr. Michael Henderson, Internal Services Department, joined the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

### **Department of Auditor-Controller:**

Ms. Carla Carr gave the following report:

- The Olive Crest Treatment Centers Group Home, RTC, Lyon, Richmond, Saylor Terrace, Malena, Forecast and Palm Group Home Audits revealed damages to the carpet, fixtures and walls in the bedroom; lack of cleanliness in bedrooms and common areas; beds have worn bedding and missing linens; yards are not well maintained at the Malena and Saylor Terrace; and the backyard fence is not secure at the Saylor Terrace site.
- The “Olive Crest Treatment Centers Group Home Follow-up Audits” show that the following group homes are in full Compliance:
  - Wheeler and Garfield Group Home in Orange, CA
  - Beazer Group Home in Perris, CA

Mr. Michael Varela joined the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

**Probation Department:**

Mr. Michael Varela reported the following:

- Chief Probation Officer, Robert B. Taylor would like to meet with the Sybil Brand Commission to discuss issues regarding Probation.
- Mr. Hayes (Consultant for the Probation Department) recommended therapist notes, and comments be incorporated in the Psychiatrist Report on file for patients.

**Department of Mental Health:** No representative was present.

**Internal Services Department:**

Mr. Michael Henderson reported the following:

- The “Career Development Program”, is a training program designed to help foster youths acquire the skills required for today’s work force. Initially, the program focused on building crafts. It now focuses on clerical work, due to the interest of the participants.
- Initially, the participants for the “Career Development Program” were referred by Department of Children and Family Services and Community Senior Services.

**Community Care Licensing Division:**

Ms. Kellee Colman reported the following:

- Community Care Licensing is conducting a review of all “Group Home Program Statements,” estimated to be completed by October 31, 2008. The review focuses on two major elements; ensuring that “Group Home Program Statements” are updated, and the “Personnel Rights” of the youths are not violated.

- Community Care Licensing is in contact with group homes without contracts with DCFS, regarding their options and plan of action in placing youths in appropriate group homes.
- The Needs and Service Plans include restrictions imposed by Court order.
- Ms. Angelica Lopez reported that "Do Not Call Lists" include the names of people the youth cannot call.

Ms. Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children and Family Services, joined the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Chair Montaño and the Commissioners thanked the various Department Representatives for their participation and reports.

#### **APPROVAL OF September 10, 2008, MEETING MINUTES**

**On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Bigby, and unanimously carried, the minutes of September 10, 2008, were approved with no changes.**

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Montaño reported on three (3) news articles:

- "Spree Desha", Los Angeles Times, September 13, 2008, regarding Los Angeles Police Officer P3, 35, of Simi Valley, CA who lost her young life on September 12, 2008, while on duty in the tragic Metrolink rail disaster.
- "Discrepancies Found In Hospital Audit", Daily Breeze, September 17, 2008, regarding the issue of how incompetent nurses and those with criminal pasts were hired and allowed to continue to work at Martin Luther King Jr.-Harbor Hospital.
- "Watchdog", Daily Breeze, September 17, 2008, regarding nurses at Martin Luther King Jr.-Harbor Hospital that had serious problems passing basic skills tests, while staff in facilities such as Harbor-UCLA Medical Center passed the test.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

There was none.

#### **STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Janice Davis reported that the September 24, 2008 Sybil Brand Commission meeting will be cancelled.

### **DISCUSSION OF RCL RATING LEVELS**

This item was continued to the next business meeting.

### **DISCUSSION OF JOINT INSPECTIONS OF GROUP HOMES**

Ms. Carr from the Department of Auditor–Controller reported that the Auditor-Controller and the Department of Children and Family Services are working together to conduct joint inspections of Group Homes.

### **CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIT REPORT**

There were none.

### **FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM SEPTEMBER 10, 2008 TO SEPTEMBER 16, 2008**

#### **Dangerfield Group Home #II – 12, #5 – Commissioners Hall and Moore**

The facility was visited on September 4, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

#### **Eggleston Youth Center (Eggleston) – 16, #5 – Commissioner Hammargren**

The facility was visited on September 11, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Area of Concern:** Need to replace the roof at the main office.

#### **Hathaway-Sycamores Children and Family Services (Sycamores) – 27, #1 – Commissioner Bigby**

The facility was visited on September 11, 2008, and found to be a nice home.

#### **Hillside Home For Children (Boys) – 28, #3 – Commissioner Bigby**

The facility was visited on September 12, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Area of Concern:** Needs and Services Plan not at site.

#### **Eggleston Youth Center (Eggleston) – 17, #1 – Commissioner Hammargren**

The facility was visited on September 15, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Areas of Concern:** low on non-perishable food supply; tub needs recaulking.

#### **Pacific Lodge – 46, #2 – Commissioner Montaña**

The facility was visited on September 16, 2008, and found to be a nice home.

### **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

### **MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)**

There were none.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m. in memory of Los Angeles Police Officer Spree Desha, the victims of the tragic Metrolink rail disaster in Chatsworth, and the victims of Hurricane Ike in Texas.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janice Davis*  
Commission Services Division